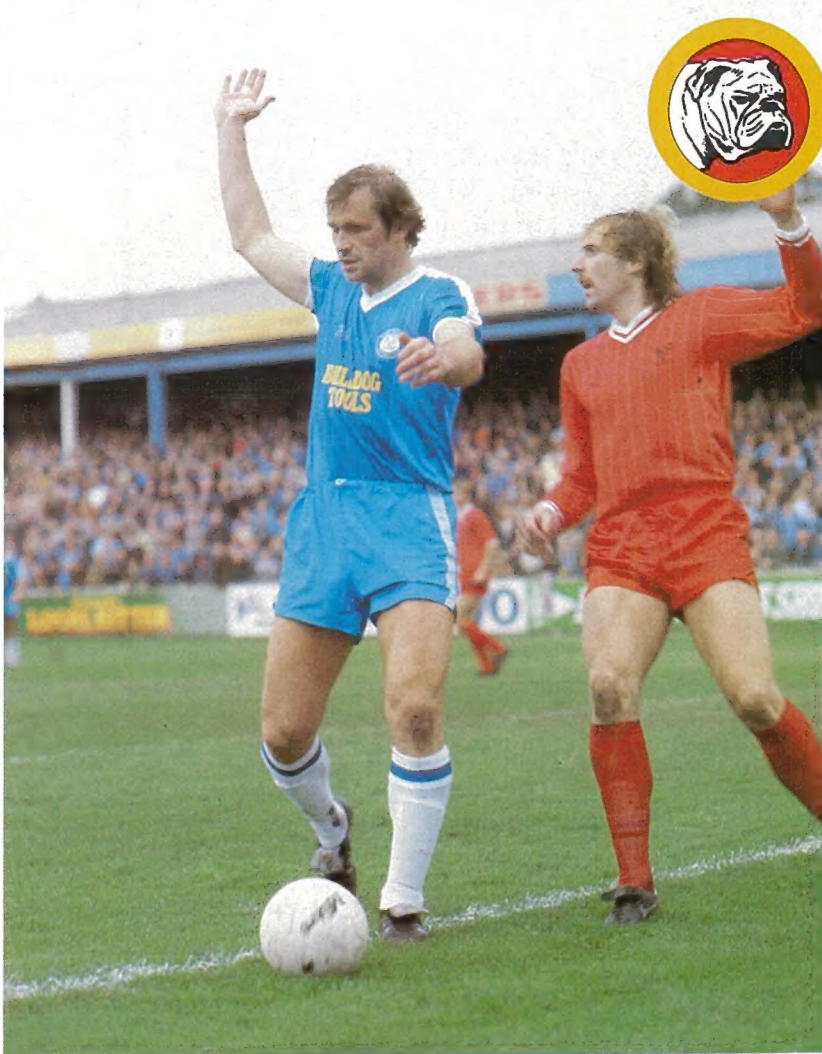


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Head Groundsman Wigan Athletic A.F.C.
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THANKS FROM BOB WARD

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

It's never easy when you have to finish your football career through an injury.

It's the thing that all professionals dread.

And when it does happen — as it has to men — the one thing you need is a good club behind you.

And that's certainly been the case with Wigan Athletic.

Both chairman Freddie Pye and manager Larry Lloyd have been marvellous to me.

During my struggle to beat injury they gave me encouragement and now that I have been forced to quit a job that I loved they have been tremendous in granting this testimonial game.

I, in fact, have been fortunate to have played for good clubs throughout my short career.

West Brom, my home town club, had no hesitation in agreeing to my request to bring such a talented team to Springfield Park for my testimonial.

I'd like to thank manager Ron Wylie and the club directors for their generosity, the Latics players for turning out for me and, of course, the special guest players who have agreed to enhance the evening with their talents.

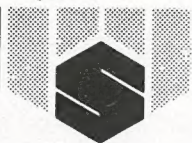
And a special mention to the Wigan Reporter Editor Cyril Edensor who, with myself, has pulled the whole evening together.

I'm indebted to everyone who has helped me make my final bow such a momentous occasions, all the players, officials and fans.

I'm sure everyone will enjoy the evening as much as I will.



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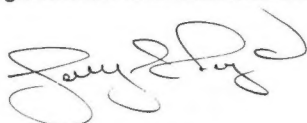


I, more than most, was really sorry to lose the services of Bob last season. His injury came at a critical time for the club and it was a great pity that he had to pack up playing due to it.

At the time we were desperate for goalkeeper cover and it was tragic that it should happen to Bob. He was a true professional with a lot of experience and could have done Wigan Athletic a lot of good. He certainly had many more years in the game in front of him at the time of his injury.

As a goalkeeper he was a player with great confidence, a joy to play in front of, and now that he is setting out on a new career in physiotherapy I'm sure that confidence that saw him through many tight situations on the football pitch will help him achieve his goal.

I would like to thank Bob for his service, not just to our club, but to football in general and wish him all the best in his new life.

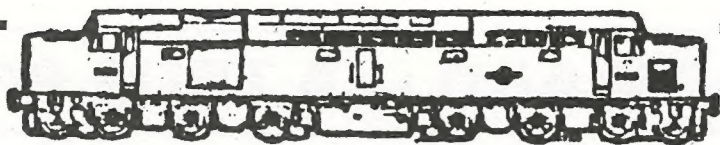


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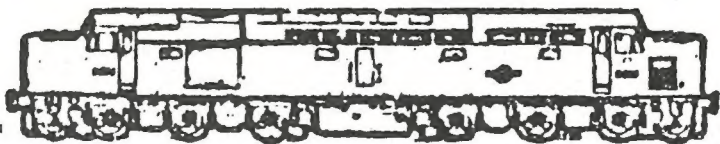
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BEST OF LUCK, BOB

by HAROLD ASHURST, of the Evening Post

Bob Ward was signed by former Latics boss Ian McNeill from Blackpool in 1980 and the canny Scot picked up a goalkeeper with a wealth of Football League experience behind him.

He began his career with West Bromwich Albion after a promising career as a midfielder when he was a youngster finally came to nothing.

He tried his hand in goal for one game and, as the saying goes, he has been there ever since.

He made nine appearances for West Brom before going out on loan to Northampton when he played eight football League games.

It was following his transfer to Blackpool that Bob Ward really began to get the games under his belt.

He played 41 times for the Bloomfield Road side under various managers before being transferred to Latics.

He and fellow goalkeeper John Brown then became engaged in a battle to establish themselves as Latics number one 'keeper although Brown finally came out tops with 93 appearances to Bob's 46.

Bob played in goal at the start of Latics promotion winning season last year but featured in only nine games before a back injury forced him to retire prematurely from the game.

All Latics fans will wish Bob Ward the best of luck for the future.

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WEST BROM SALUTE T



Manager Ron Wylie summed up the respect that West Bromwich have for goalkeeper Bob Ward when he commented: "To turn a top side out for Bob's testimonial is the least we could do. Bob's a West Brom lad and was a tremendous servant to the club."

Bob Ward's professional soccer career was always destined to start at the Hawthorns. From the day he first pulled on a pair of football boots he set his heart on playing for his home town club.

Yet the lad who started his days as an outfield player in the local amateur league realised his dreams in a most unexpected way — as a goalkeeper!

As Bob says: "I always wanted to play for West Brom. I thought my hopes were shattered when I suffered a knee injury.

"Then I decided to have a go in goal and within two years was signed by the then West Brom manager Don Howe after I was spotted playing in the Midland Combination."

During the whole of his career at the Hawthorns he had to be a patient understudy to John



Back Row (Left to right): Cyrille Regis, Martin J. Brown, Alistair Robertson, Richard Roberts (F). Front Row (Left to right): MacKenzie, Ron Wylie (Manager), Clive White

Osborne, playing only nine Football League games.

It's that tremendous loyalty, Bob's contentment with a Central League role, that West Brom are acknowledging tonight in a game that brings them — one of the founder members of the Football League — together with Wigan Athletic, the younger member of the 92-team club.

ALBION DATA

Formation of the Club ... 20th September 1879.

Professional Status ... Turned professional 1885.

Grounds ... Coopers Hill 1879, Dartmouth Park 1879, Bunn's Field (Walsall Street) 1881, Four Acres

(Dartmouth Park) 1879, Stoney Lane 1890.

Ground Capacity ... 12,500 seats

Club Colours ... White Striped Shirts, White Stockings

Change Colours ... Blue Shorts, Yellow Socks

Record Victory ... 10-0 vs. Darwen, Division One, 1892.

Record Defeat ... 1-6 vs. Stoke City, Division One, February 1930.

Most League Goals ... 105, Division One, 1900-01.

Best Defences ... 10 clean sheets

TO A LOYAL KEEPER



...ol, Peter Eastoe, Brendan Batson, Tony Godden, Mark Crew, Martyn Bennett, Derek Monaghan, Alistair Physio). **Front Row (Left to right):** Barry Cowdrill, Derek Seatham, Alan Webb, Gary Owen, Steve Sheehy, Nicky Cross, Romeo Zondervan, David Mills.

Cricket Club) 1882,
1885, The Hawthorns

Capacity ... 38,500
(26,000 standing).

... Navy Blue and
Shirts, White Shorts,
Socks.

... Yellow Shirts,
Yellow Stockings.

... 12-0 against
Division One, 4th April

... 3-10 against
Division One, 4th
July.

Goals in a Season ...
Two, Season 1929-

ive Record ... 34

conceded goals in 42 First Division
matches, Season 1924-25.

World Defensive Record ... 96
conceded goals in 42 First Division
matches, Season 1954-55.

Most League Appearances ... Tony
Brown (574), 1963 to 1980.

Record Transfer Fee Received ...
£995,000 from Real Madrid for
Laurie Cunningham, June 1979.

Record Transfer Fee Paid ...
£748,000 to Manchester City for
Peter Barnes, July 1979.

Record F.A. Cup Attendance ...
64,815 against Arsenal, F.A. Cup
Sixth Round, 6th March 1937.

Record League Attendance ...
60,945 against Wolverhampton
Wanderers, Division One, 4th
March 1950.

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1970

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1976

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THE DAY BOB'S LUCK RAN OUT

by Clive Carter, Sports Editor, Wigan Reporter.



For goalkeeper Bob Ward the 24th day of October, 1981 saw his luck run out . . .

On that day, as Wigan Athletic got into the stride that took them to promotion in the Fourth Division, an injury in the game against Scunthorpe United at Springfield Park finished his football career.

Wigan won 2-1, Bob Ward lost. He struggled to recover from the fractured vertebrae in his spine, but had to take specialist advice and quit at the end of the season that brought him his

first major honour in 11 seasons in the professional game.

Twenty-nine-year-old Bob, born in West Brom, in 1953, spent six of those seasons at the Hawthorns before moving to Blackpool for a £20,000 fee.

He had two seasons at Bloomfield Road under the management of Bob Stokoe and played 41 senior games before being brought to Springfield Park by manager Ian McNeill.

At Wigan he played over 46 first team games and made more Football League appearances than he had at any of his other clubs before injury cruelly cut down a career that seemed to have settled him in at Springfield Park.

Now Bob is setting out on a new career that he hopes will still keep him in the game that he loves.

At the moment the likeable six footer is into a two year course at the Salford School of Physiotherapy and when he qualifies, wants to come back into the game as a chartered physiotherapist.

All of us, from the players at West Brom, Blackpool, Wigan, backroom boys, directors and fans who have savoured those magic moments that made Bob a larger than life 'keeper wish him all the best in his future career.



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WIGAN REPORTER



FOR ALL THAT'S BEST IN LOCAL SPORT

RON M. WYLIE — Manager. Born: Glasgow, Scotland, in August 1933. Career: Glasgow Schools football, Clydesdale Juniors, Scotland Schoolboys, Notts County (1949), Aston Villa (for £9,250 in September 1958), Birmingham City (for £15,000 in July 1965), Aston Villa (coach, 1970-74), Coventry City (coach, 1974-75, assistant manager, 1976-81), Cyprus (coach, eight months, 1981-82), Hong Kong (Bulova manager, 1982), Albion (team manager, signing a three-year contract, July 1982).

In his playing career Ron was a ball-playing inside-forward who later became a dominating wing-half. He appeared in a total of 551 Football League matches for Notts County, Villa and Blues, scoring 51 goals. Played in the 1961 and 1963 League Cup Finals for Villa, collecting a winners' tankard in the first of those against Rotherham United. He also appeared in the 1959 and 1960 FA Cup Semi-Finals with Villa and in the 1968 FA Cup Semi-Final for Blues against Albion at Villa Park.

He was with Blues in the 1967 League Cup Semi-Finals against Queens Park Rangers, but has sadly never played in a Wembley Cup Final.

Voted Midland Footballer of the Year 1965 and also received the Villa Terrace Trophy in that same season.

At Coventry he was responsible for 'finding' much young talent and as manager of the Bulova club in Hong Kong, saw that team win both the Hong Kong FA and the Vice-Roy Cup competitions.

WEST BR

PETER EASTOE—Forward. Born Tamworth August 1953. Career: Tamworth Schools football, Wolverhampton Wanderers (1969), Swindon Town (November 1973), Queens Park Rangers (March 1976), Everton (March 1979), Albion (July 1982).

A darting utility forward who can score goals as well as make them. Has had a mixed career to date with Albion his fifth League club, having moved to the Hawthorns in a player-exchange deal involving Andy King. An England Youth International, Peter made his debut for Everton against Albion and has appeared in a League Cup Semi-Final with Queens Park Rangers and FA Cup Semi-Final with Everton. Averages a goal every three games in his first-class playing career which began in 1969.

MARTYN BENNETT—Defender. Born Birmingham, August 1961. Career: Aldridge Comprehensive School, Streetly FC, Albion (August 1977, as an apprentice), turning professional August 1978. A talented defender who can fill in at either right-back or centre-half. Nephew

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of the former Walsall player, Stan Bennett. Martyn made his debut for Albion against Everton three years ago and as a lad won nine caps for the England Schoolboys.

ROMEO ZONDERVAN—Midfield/Utility Forward. Born Surinam, Dutch Guiana, March 1959. Career: Den Haag, FC Twente Enschede, Albion (for £225,000, March 1982).

Like his fellow countryman, Romeo is a Dutch International at three levels. He can play at left-back, in midfield or out wide on the right. A player with speed, neat ball skills and powerful shot, he made his Albion debut at Middlesbrough, March 1982.

ALISTAIR ROBERTSON—Defender. Born Philipstoun, Scotland, September 1952. Career: Linlithgow Academy, Uphall Saints, Albion (July 1968), turning professional 1969. Steady, unobtrusive back-line defender, solidly built with powerful shoulders and a player who for a number of seasons drew up a fine understanding with his Club Captain, John Wile. Lost his

place half-way through last season to young Martyn Bennett, but 'Ally' was back in the side when the campaign ended, playing as well as ever. A Scottish international at Schoolboy and Youth levels. 'Ally' has appeared in over 430 games for the 'Baggies'.

DEREK STATHAM—Defender. Born Whitmore Reams, Wolverhampton, March 1959. Career: St. Edmunds School, Wolverhampton, Albion (July 1975), turning professional April 1976. Cheerful, bouyant character who tackles tigerishly from the left-back position. Made his League debut in December 1976 and since then has appeared in some 180 games for Albion. Capped for England at Youth, U-21 and full level.

JOHN WILE—Defender. Born Sherburn, County Durham, March 1947. Career: Sherburn Secondary School, Epleton Juniors (Hetton), Durham City, Peterborough United (trial), Sunderland, Peterborough United, Albion (December 1970). Club Captain who is now in his Testimonial Year. An astute centre-half,



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WEST BROM PEN PICTURES

especially good and dominant in the air, thanks to a height of 6'1½". Strong and competent in the tackle, John is a marvellous example of a honest professional. He has topped 500 games for Albion and has been an ever-present in the side for four out of the last five seasons.

GARY OWEN—Midfield. Born St. Helens, July 1958. Career: Warrington Schools, Manchester City (1974-79), Albion (May 1979), in a deal worth £450,000. A skilful, determined midfielder player who has won England recognition at Youth, Under-21, Under-23 'B' levels. Made his 'City' debut back in 1976 and to date has appeared in over 200 senior matches for both City and Albion.

NICKY CROSS—Striker. Born Birmingham, February 1961. Career: School, Albion (apprentice June 1977), turning professional in February 1979. An enterprising front-runner, who made his League debut for Albion at Old Trafford in April 1981. Was a regular member of Albion's Central League side for four full seasons before breaking into the senior side.

MAARTEN JOL—Midfield. Born The Hague, January 1956. Career: The Hague Schools, Den Haag, Bayern Munich, FC Twente Enschede, Albion (for £250,000 October 1981).

Dutch International at Schoolboy, 'B' Under-21 and full team levels, who added strength and skill to Albion's midfield department last season. A straight replacement

for Robson, 'Martin' was out for two months at the tail-end of 1981-82 with cartilage trouble, but now he's back to peak fitness. Albion debut versus Southampton (home) October 1981.

CLIVE WHITEHEAD—Forward. Born Northfield, Birmingham November 1965. Career: Northfield Juniors, Bristol City (March 1973), Albion (for £100,000 November 1981).

Good class competitor who can play at left-back, in midfield (coming forward) or wide on either flank. Played over 200 games for Bristol before joining Albion.

Clive made his debut for the Throstles against Tottenham Hotspur (away) in the same month he joined the club.

CYRILLE REGIS—Striker. Born Maripasoula, French Guyana, February 1958. Career: Cardinal Hinsley School, Harlesden, Harlesden Borough Boys, Mosley FC, Hayes, Albion (May 1977) for £5,000. An explosive centre-forward who burst onto the English soccer scene in style four years ago when present-day boss, Ronnie Allen, then a scout for the Club, sent this raw-boned striker up to The Hawthorns. What a find! 'Smokin Joe' as he is called, has pace, power and a lethal shot. He has already scored some sparkling goals (over 50 all told for the 'Baggies' so far) and is surely destined for many more. Capped by England at Under-21 and 'B' team levels.

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Refereed the 1981 FA Challenge Trophy Final, and the same year was appointed to the FIFA panel of referees.

A married man with two sons, he is a Works Accountant and interested in all sport and keeping fit.

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Mr. M.J. Woodage
(Warrington)

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Mr. K. Turnbull
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